

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system to monitor and report the use of communication software applications in
5 a computing environment including an instant messaging system, that provides local
users with information describing detected uses of communication software applications
by remote users. The monitored communication applications may include, for example,
electronic mail, voice over IP applications, on-line meetings, and other specific types of
communication applications, as well as instant messaging activities. The system
10 potentially stores specific information regarding each use of the monitored
communication applications, and sends the communication application information to
one or more server process that stores the information in association with a user identifier
provided with the information. The stored communication application information is
then broadcast by the server process to client processes that have registered with the
15 server process to receive communication application information associated with that
user identifier.